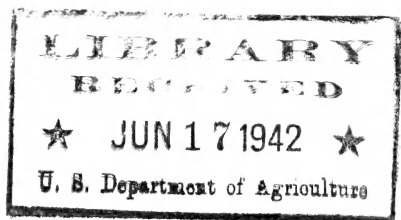


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HYBRID PEONIES

A. P. SAUNDERS

Clinton

New York

1941

I OFFER in this list chiefly a selection of my peony hybrids, many of which represent strains that are new to horticulture. These plants are still so recent that stocks are very limited and I shall have to accept your order on the condition that stock is still available.

Groups of these hybrids have been shown at peony exhibitions during the last ten years or so and wherever shown they have excited much favorable comment and received marks of recognition including many medals and certificates.

With few exceptions they are of my own origination; those which have been produced by other hybridizers are so indicated; my own varieties are mostly not for sale elsewhere.

Those who have bought named varieties from me in the past will please note certain changes of names in the present list and make the appropriate alterations in their labels. These changes have been made to avoid confusion with certain older varieties mostly in the group of Chinese peonies.

The strains offered below are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest. In my garden I have peonies for almost two months, beginning about May 5 with the earliest species and hybrids, and ending about July 5 with the last of the Chinese peonies and sometimes with belated blooms on *P. lutea* and its hybrids.

Considering the difficulties of propagation I hope my prices are not unreasonable. As to quality I think you will find my plants worthy of the best company you can give them in your garden.

Peony shipping season September and October. Transportation prepaid. Please include 25c for postage and packing on orders under \$5.00.

Price in all cases except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root. Cash should accompany orders.

Directions for Planting

Failures with peonies are more often due to bad planting than to poor roots. The ground should be prepared in advance and must be **deeply dug**. Two feet is not too much; 18 inches is a minimum, and the hole where the root is to be set should be filled with good friable loam. Some manure at the bottom will be to the good but it must not come into contact with the roots. These must be set **not too deep**. The buds should be placed so that they will be covered with two or three inches of soil. At the best however the plants cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

Herbaceous Peonies

HYBRIDS

(Roughly in order of blooming season)

Woodwardi x tenuifolia

This strain is in some seasons the first of all peonies to bloom, coming even before the single *tenuifolia*. The plants are handsome garden objects with finely cut foliage and a great abundance of bright crimson flowers. Selected colors, sold under number only.

Mlokoewitschi x tenuifolia

These hybrids are extremely early, being also among the first peonies to bloom. They range in color from light pink to cherry red. I have selected a few of particularly good color. Sold under number only.

Veitchi x Mlokoewitschi

These lovely little plants come very early into bloom. They bear charming creamy-white flowers not large in size but very elegant and attractive. Sold under number only.

Albiflora x macrophylla (tomentosa)

All very early—before the officinalis varieties and about two weeks before the beginning of the Chinese peonies.

Chalice. The largest single peony in the list. Pure white blooms, 8 to 10 inches across, with long silky stamens, rise erect on heavy stems about three feet tall. Very lovely. When it is in bloom it is hard to notice any other flower. \$10.00

Seraphim (formerly Seraph). Less tall, with flowers not so huge. Abundant bloomer. White single. Earlier than Chalice.

Ariel. Full double. Light rose pink. Delicious cinnamon scent. Also very early; an extraordinary variety for its season.

Celia. Semi-double with tuft of petals in the center. Color light flesh with yellow cast. Very early.

Audrey (formerly Rosalind). Semi-double, sometimes almost fully double. Very light pink, a few days earlier than Celia. A very effective plant in the garden.

Seashell. A fine upstanding plant with single flowers of pale pink having a slight cast of yellowish green. Early and desirable.

No. 4993. Double pink. A handsome flower for its season.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

Second Generation Hybrids

Of the following, Serenade, Fantasia and 4992 are second generation plants of the cross *albiflora* x *macrophylla*. Garden Peace and Requiem are back crosses, using pollen of an *albiflora* x *macrophylla* hybrid on an *albiflora* variety.

Garden Peace (formerly Peace). (1941) Level white single blooms, held high, crowded with surrounding buds. Its side blooms give it a very long season. Exceptionally good as a garden plant. Foliage enormous, very dark green, smooth. Plant very tall. A grand acquisition.

Requiem. (1941) Very tall, as tall as Garden Peace. Flower smaller, but a perfect waxy white single bloom, held flat, with high golden centre. Petals of heavy kid-like substance. Much admired.

Serenade. (1941) Single smooth-edged petals of heavy substance. Palest flush. Tall, superb carriage.

Fantasia. (1941) Single flesh pink, crinkled petals of great substance; crimson stigmas. Grand foliage and stature.

No. 4992. Second generation from the cross. The first generation plants are usually sterile. This plant has strongly fertile pollen and sets seed regularly. It is therefore of great interest to the hybridist.

Albiflora x *Wittmanniana*

Green Ivory. Flowers light green with some yellow. Distinct and beautiful. A novel color and a very early variety. \$10.

Ballerina. (1941) Large bomb of delicate greenish yellow, full, fringed. Very early for a double. A handsome flower.

Albiflora x *tenuifolia*

Smouthi. Often offered as a form of *anomala* or even as that species. It is really a hybrid made in France about 1845. It is an excellent plant, bearing fine bright crimson flowers both showy and fragrant.

No. 8277. I repeated the cross to make sure, and got a series of plants similar to Smouthi and with the same fragrance. This one is much darker in color than Smouthi; a tall conspicuous plant.

Albiflora x *decora*

Reward. (1941) Upright, very handsome. Flat single bloom; beautiful warm dark maroon. Attractive.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

Albiflora x decora alba

This beautiful new strain is characterized by the fact that the flowers on opening have a flush of peach pink towards the base of the petals which are otherwise white with a silky lustre. The blooms are large, always single, and borne on tall stems. Sold under number only.

Officinalis x decora alba

"Peach Blossom" Group. Very early. Delightful pale pink flowers. Plants rather dwarf. Flowers medium in size. Sold under number only.

Albiflora x officinalis

The "Challenger" Group (Albiflora x single officinalis)

A strain of extraordinary robustness. The stems are sometimes nearly an inch thick, and the height of the plants and weight of the foliage proportional. The flowers are a splendid crimson, varying in darkness, large open cups filled with brilliant golden or striped crimson anthers.

Challenger. Garden Achievement Medal and Silver Medal of American Peony Society. Tall dark crimson with bright yellow anthers.

Defender. Dark mahogany crimson. A very large cup with a mass of silky stamens. Blooms with the later officinalis. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941.

Buccaneer. Similar to Challenger, but a lighter crimson. Very fine.

Erebus. Fine very dark mahogany red single. The darkest of this group. Conspicuous yellow stamens.

Liberator (formerly Commander). A plant of enormous vigor and luxuriant foliage. The bright deep crimson flowers turn somewhat purple with age. Nevertheless a magnificent variety. Very few for sale. \$10.00

Mariner. (1941) Single darkest maroon crimson, very beautiful color. Moderate height; fine carriage.

Other hybrids between albiflora and forms of officinalis

Marta. Very tall. Flowers loosely double. Brilliant lustrous deepest mahogany red, with touches of white on the edges of the petals. Very effective. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941.

Cavatina (formerly Felicity). A light bright cherry pink. Single. Filaments almost white, stigmas crimson. (Hybrid between P. albiflora and officinalis rosea plena.)

Jacqueminot. (1941) Full double crimson bomb, the color the rose for which it is named. The buds look like huge rosebuds.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

Madrigal. (1941) Very large blooms, semi-double, palest pink or white. Like a fine albiflora, but in the season of officinalis, or earlier.

Col. Steichen. (1941) Magnificent huge dark crimson semi-double, on very tall stems. Not for sale, 1941.

Postilion. (1941) Enormous flower of deep scarlet crimson. Very brilliant. Semi-double flat cup.

Legion of Honor. (1941) Beautiful almost single flat flower of lustreless cherry scarlet. Light green foliage. Unusual and striking. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941.

Rosy Wreath. (1941) Single very pale pink cup. Charming.

Albiflora x coriacea

This is a new race of hybrids which have bloomed only for the last three or four years. The color is a beautiful clear lilac, becoming more and more delicate as the flower ages. Very few roots for sale. \$10.00

Veitchi x Emodi. Early Windflower

Beresowskyi x Emodi. Late Windflower

These two strains are so closely alike that I prefer to offer them under the above names. The early strain blooms at the very beginning of the peony season; the other about a week later. These plants are graceful and unusual. The flowers, which are only moderate in size, resemble beautiful white anemones. They are slightly nodding and are borne on rather tall stems. The foliage is fern-like and very handsome. Sold as a strain only, the plants in each group being all closely alike.

Albiflora x Otto Froebel

The plants cover themselves with gaily held flowers in some new and fresh shades of pink, charming for cutting or the garden.

Hope. Semi-double, an exquisite flower, of an intense pure rose color, absolutely free from mauve, a color new in herbaceous peonies. Comes sometimes full double.

Charity. A clear bright pink semi-double, darker than Hope, almost a cherry red, with a peculiar silky sheen.

Birthday. The sensation of the group at the Boston Show, 1935. Like a huge pale pink Shirley poppy in color and form, slightly fringed at the edges. Single.

Anniversary. (1941) Fringed flower. Like Birthday, but darker in color. Very attractive.

Fidelity. A lovely salmon flesh color. Single.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

- Verity.** The palest of the group; light flesh pink. Single. Very tall and fine.
- Valor.** Bright clear pink, semi-double. Large bloom. Tall upstanding plant. Not for sale, 1941.
- Mercy** (formerly *Patience*). Beautiful salmon rose cup. Single. Very attractive.
- Amity.** First class certificate, Washington, 1929. Lovely light rose pink single.
- Victoria Lincoln** (formerly *Victoria*). The handsomest of this group, so far. Clear pink. Large full double when established. Magnificent.
- Honor.** (1941) Especially good single bright pink cup.
- Good Will.** (1941) One of the last in bloom of this strain. Almost double; bright rosy pink.
- Spring Song.** (1941) Beautiful pale creamy salmon single.

Albiflora x lobata

This race of hybrids contains many beautiful pink and red colors we have so long desired in the Chinese peonies—flesh, cherry, salmon, coral and rose pinks to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of hybrid peonies yet produced.

- Janice.** Tall erect variety bearing good-sized flowers of a charming pale salmon pink color. Extra.
- Jeannette.** Somewhat darker than the above, salmon rose in color. Very fine.
- Nathalie.** Magnificent flat bloom almost full double, brilliant salmon rose. \$10.00
- Julia Grant** (formerly *Julia*). Semi-double. Very fine clear pink color. \$10.00
- Coralie.** Orange cherry single. Unusual color. A beauty. Not for sale, 1941.
- Sophie.** Brightest cherry red; semi-double cup. Fine center. Not for sale, 1941.
- Grace Root.** Pale clear salmon pink single. Much admired at Boston Show, 1940. Not for sale, 1941.
- Cecilia.** Light bright cherry. Fringed. Enormous goblet. One of the best. \$10.00
- Ellen Cowley.** Bright cherry semi-double rosette. Lovely. \$10.00
- Cardinal's Robe** (formerly *Cardinal*). Brilliant and shining scarlet single. Very striking color. \$10.00

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

- Ludovica.** (1941) Clear rose pink. Very large semi-double cup. One of the best. \$10.00
- Laura Magnuson.** (1941) Very large cup-shaped light clear bright cherry, semi-double. Rather late for this strain. \$10.00
- Elizabeth Foster.** (1941) Single brightest rose-pink flat cup. Large and brilliant. \$10.00
- Alexander Woolcott.** (1941) Large semi-double flat cup, shining crimson. Very brilliant. Not for sale, 1941.
- Constance Spry.** (1941) Magnificent light cherry semi-double. A beauty. Not for sale, 1941.
- Nadia.** (1941) Similar to the above, but a flatter blossom, and with slightly crinkled petals. Late for this strain.
- No. 12849.** (1941) Fine single brilliant red.
- No. 9257.** (1941) Exceptionally brilliant crimson single.

Triple Hybrids in which *albiflora*, *officinalis*, and *macrophylla* are combined

- Pageant.** (1941) (*Officinalis* x 4992). Light pink with an enormous cluster of stamens. Tall and upstanding. Very conspicuous.
- Burgundy.** (1941) (*Albiflora* x [*macrophylla* x *officinalis*]). Blackish purple petals of heavy substance, lustreless and crinkled; brilliant yellow stamens. Noble carriage. An outstanding beauty.
- No. 8497.** (1941) (Parentage similar to that of *Burgundy*). Deep white goblet with greenish shadows. filled with a mass of bright gold anthers. Petals slightly fringed and crinkled. A lovely flower.

CHINESE PEONY SEEDLINGS

These are not hybrids, but seedlings of my own raising which have made themselves friends in the past few years.

- Silvia Saunders.** Specially good as a garden plant. Literally covers itself with light fresh pink wild-rose-like semi-double flowers. Has proved a great garden favorite wherever grown. American Peony Society rating, 9.
- Grace Loomis.** A very large double, pure white, very late. First Class Certificate, and rated in the American Peony Symposium at 9.2.
- Louise.** Another fine white, still later, so that it has never been shown. Lengthens the season, blooming with Richardson's *Grandiflora*.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

Emmy Swan. Outer petals light pink, the whole center of the flower yellow with a few splashes of crimson; very unusual in color. Fragrant.

Solo Flight. A very large Japanese type. Flat pale flesh guard petals with high center of pale yellow. Very popular at Boston Show, 1935. The plant is tall and upright and covers itself with bloom; a conspicuously beautiful plant in the garden.

Snowflake. The plant I have under this name (and the name is certainly not correct) is of Japanese or European origin; it seems to be very close to White Lady, but I think not fully identical. Anyway it is one of the finest of all peonies of the Japanese type. Pure white, petals very thick and heavy. Center of closely packed yellow staminoid petals.

PEONY SPECIES

I can offer a few interesting species some of which are not easy to obtain true to name.

anomala. I can offer a few seedling plants of this interesting species, which I think I have true to name. It is a very different plant from Smouthi, which is often sold as anomala. The flowers of the true species are purplish in color, somewhat nodding and not much to look at, but of botanical interest.

arietina alba. A very beautiful early species. Flowers with a silky sheen. A fine variety.

cretica. Probably a form of *P. arietina*. Grayish green foliage, light pink flowers. A nice plant and very early.

decora alba. Another fine early blooming plant.

Emodi. The Himalayan peony. Very tall, with nodding white flowers and extremely handsome foliage. A beautiful species.

macrophylla (tomentosa). A very large-leaved species from the Caucasus region. Flowers white; one of the first of all peonies in bloom.

Mlokosewitschi. The only truly yellow herbaceous peony and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. A very early and abundant bloomer. It should be in every garden.

obovata alba (Japan). This is the wild peony of Japan and is a pleasant little plant of no very conspicuous charm. It occurs also with pink flowers, and is then no better.

officinalis lobata. You may call this simply *Paeonia lobata* if you wish. This too is a variable plant from seed.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

The precious form of it has flowers of a brilliant vermilion color and seems to be almost identical with the English plant offered under the name Sunbeam.

officinalis Ophia. A very good light red single form of officinalis. This would be a good plant to use for crossing.

officinalis Otto Froebel. The authenticity of my plants is very doubtful. My stock seems to be identical with what is now called by Barr & Sons officinalis Charmer. In any case the flowers are single, of a good pink color, and the plant has proved of great value for hybridizing. Its seedlings do not run quite uniform in color.

officinalis rubra plena. The old double crimson May-flowering peony. \$1.00

tenuifolia. The old fern-leaved peony. Very early, dwarf, flowers brightest crimson. \$1.00

tenuifolia flore pleno. The double form of the species; a fine garden plant. \$2.00

triternata. Very early. Light mauve pink flowers. Foliage waved. A plant worth having.

Veitchi. Closely related to anomala. Flowers similar in color.

Woodwardi. A lovely pink form of Veitchi.

Woodwardi alba (Beresowskyi). As far as I can see, the species Beresowskyi is a white form of Woodwardi; at least that is what my plants are. This is a very beautiful dwarf plant with flowers like anemones.

Tree Peonies

Seedlings. Seedlings of 4 to 6 years' growth, unbloomed; they cannot be sold to color, but will contain many beautiful things. For those who wish to start a large group of these matchless plants at small expense.

\$2.50 each, \$25.00 a doz.

Grafted Tree Peonies. The above seedlings are all on their own roots. I have a considerable variety of tree peonies under propagation by grafting, all of the highest quality and of the most beautiful colors. However, there are very few plants of any one variety. I prefer therefore to let my customers specify what colors they prefer and let me select the best from what plants I have. That is all I can do for the present. There are however a few sorts of which I have some stock and while it lasts I can supply plants of these:

No. 45. A salmon pink Japanese variety; semi-double. One of the best. Name lost.

Noelle de Mosa (formerly No. 166). A magnificent single white seedling. Flowers 8 inches in diameter. One of the best.

No. 176. Very fine flesh pink double of my own raising.

No. 220. (1941) Magnificent white, fragrant.

No. 238. (1941) Very beautiful pink, nearly double.

No. 284. (1941) Fine double pink. Prolific bloomer. A beauty.

Tamafuyo. Very fine double pink.

Jeanne d'Arc. One of the best of the European sorts. Great bloomer. Flowers double, light coppery salmon.

P. LUTEA AND P. DELAVAYI

Paeonia lutea is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flowers 2 to 3 inches across like an enlarged buttercup, with a lily-like fragrance; foliage fern-like, very handsome. A beautiful and unusual plant.

Paeonia Delavayi is very closely allied to *P. lutea*. Its flowers are a dark mahogany red. The two species intercross with extreme ease, producing hybrids in which the flowers vary in color from reddish yellow to a rather deep orange red. Beautiful for cutting, resembling French anemones in a totally new set of colors.

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

HYBRIDS BETWEEN CHINESE TREE PEONIES and P. LUTEA or P. DELAVAYI

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu (Henry, 1919). I can offer a few strong field plants of this European hybrid. Pale yellow shot and edged with red, giving an almost orange effect. Enormous double flowers. Very free bloomer. Stems rather too weak to hold up the massive blooms. \$10.00

Mme. Louis Henry (Henry, 1919. Description by Lemoine). Color a mixture of carmine buff and pink, with purple markings at the base of the petals. \$10.00

The following are hybrids of my own raising. Most of them are offered for the first time this year.

Argosy. (1928). Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6 to 7 inches across, with plum colored dash at base of petals. Garden Achievement Medal, Boston, F.C.C. Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$10.00

Black Pirate. (1935) Vote of Commendation, Mass. Hort. Soc. Very dark mahogany red with black stains at base of petals. Single. A grand flower. Very free bloomer. Only a few plants for sale. \$15.00

Corsair. (1941) A darker Black Pirate, the darkest of all, so far. Large black stains at base of petals. About a week earlier than Black Pirate. \$10.00

Centaur. (1941) Somber red with black base to the petals. \$10.00

Canary. (1940) An even brighter yellow than Argosy; otherwise very similar in form and general character. A lovely flower. \$10.00

Roman Gold. (1941) The most brilliant yellow yet. Not large, but of very perfect form. \$10.00

Narcissus. (1941) Clear pale yellow, rosy towards the centre. A fine little flower. \$10.00

Banquet. (1941) Yellow ground suffused strawberry red. Semi-double flat rosette. Very large petals somewhat crinkled. \$10.00

Brocade. (1941) Red gold single. Deep red stains at base of petals. A flower of great style. Very few for sale. \$15.00

Damask. (1941) Buff yellow double, with much reddish color suffusing the outer petals, with deep red stains at base. Much style. Not for sale, 1941.

Festival. (1941) Pale creamy yellow edged and flushed with rose. A flat rosette almost double. A very finished flower. \$10.00

Princess. (1941) Semi-double mauve suffused with golden sheen. Pale gold center. A beauty. \$15.00

—Price except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root—

Other Specialties

IRIS HISTRIOIDES

Plants 3 inches high, flowers 2 to 3 inches across in lovely shades of sapphire blue, from light to dark. Bloom in March and early April. A gem for the earliest rock garden. Perfectly hardy. Bulbs 40 cts. each, \$4.00 a dozen

IRIS BUCCHARICA

Another bulbous iris. This one produces stems about a foot high with yellow flowers in the leaf axils. A beautiful plant, coming much later than *I. histrioides*.

Same price as the above

COLCHICUMS

This is a group of plants suffering from undeserved neglect. They make their rather coarse leaf growth in spring; in July the leaves die down and should be removed. Then in September and October the plants send up through the bare ground their beautiful goblets of light mauve pink. The only species that is at all generally grown is *C. autumnale*, which is very pretty, but its flowers are quite small compared with those of some of the other forms and it gives no idea of the striking beauty of a fine clump of *C. Bornmuelleri* or *C. speciosum*. I have stock of a few of these forms which I can offer.

40 cts. each; \$4.00 a dozen

C. speciosum, early variety. *C. speciosum* is typically a late bloomer; but this early form is the first of all the colchicums to bloom. It usually opens in the first week in September. Flowers very large with spreading pointed petals.

C. Bornmuelleri. To my mind the finest of the group. It blooms just after the above. The flowers are very large, goblet shaped with rounded petals. Color a lovely pink shading towards mauve, the base of the flowers white within. One of the most lovely of all bulbous plants. The flowers stand 6 to 8 inches above the ground and are particularly good for cutting.

C. Agrippinum. This is a smaller variety coming somewhat after *Bornmuelleri*. The flowers are not so large as in that species, and spread their stars wide open almost on the surface of the ground. The color in the petals is tessellated, i.e., distributed in alternate squares of white and pink. This is a very pretty little plant in the garden, but the flowers are not for cutting.

- C. autumnale.** The most familiar form of Colchicum. Pretty, but smaller flowers than the other forms.
- C. The Giant** (Van Tubergen). Color lightest mauve pink, tessellated. Very late. A magnificent large flower.
- C. Lilac Wonder** (Van Tubergen). Extremely floriferous. Late midseason. Flowers uniform dark lilac. Very fine.
- C. speciosum typical late form.** One of the latest of this lovely genus. The petals in C. speciosum are pointed, with a little twisting at the tips. Blooms in October. Flowers lilac pink.

Bulbs of the above varieties of Iris and Colchicum can be shipped only in July and August.

